Ham-Policy Digest   Fri, 27 Aug 93   Volume 93 : Issue 308

Today's Topics:
                       Just Go Learn the code!
                              Part 97
                         Updating the test

Date: 26 Aug 1993 10:17:33 -0700
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!howland.reston.ans.net!gatech!asuvax!chnews!
ornews.intel.com!ornews.intel.com!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Just Go Learn the code!
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

In article <CCCyFr.AKx@news.Hawaii.Edu> jherman@uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu (Jeff
Herman) writes:
>In article <25gfr3INN8sv@bashful.isi.com> jerry@isi.com (Jerry Gardner x323)
writes:
>>*most* people in this age group passing the extra written test do it
>>by simply associating the correct answer with the question as memorized
>>from the test pool.
>>Unfortuately, most *adult* extra class license holders probably passed the
>>written exam in exactly the same way.

>Jerry, this is a rather cruel insult to *adult* extras; can you provide
>firm evidence to back up your claim?

In the case of the questions regarding lead time notification of federal

agencies about when you will be launching and activating your personal
amateur radio spacecraft, I believe Jerry is correct. But I myself do not
see any other way to study for these kind of questions except by association.

Use the FAA private pilot written exams as a pardigm. All 700 or so questions
of this test pool are published as well but I can't imagine anybody memorizing
the whole mess without learning SOMETHING. The questions in this pool are
more serious and to the point, I think. The FAA will NOT ask you what an
AN-14 is and what is it used for yet the amateur exams insist on knowledge
of terminology like PL-259, RG-58, etc not necessary for successful station
setup and operation.
The AC reactance questions on the extra exam are maybe too easy since a clue
about signs and magnatudes will allow answering without doing the math but
this assumes you have a clue in the first place or else a lot of memorization.
I remember going down to the big stone Federal building to take my General
test when I was 13. I was fully prepared to draw schematics and label
components for various circuits such as Hartley oscillators and such because
I had somehow gotten the impression from the league books and government info
that I would be required to do so. I was sure surprised to find it was all
multiple choice questions.
I realize now how difficult and arbitrary it would be to grade such testing.
--
WA7LDV   zardoz@ornews.intel.com   <<<ZARDOZ>>>

Date: Thu, 26 Aug 1993 18:45:27 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!netsys!pagesat!indirect.com!nu7i@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Part 97
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

More importantly, could someone please tell us where we can email to get a
copy of the latest part 97 rules? Hopefully there is some kind of
listserv for it. 73

Date: 26 Aug 93 08:54:08 GMT
From: ogicse!flop.ENGR.ORST.EDU!gaia.ucs.orst.edu!umn.edu!lynx.unm.edu!
hydra.unm.edu!news-user@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Updating the test
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

*** Warning *** This is more of the endless code argument, so if you're
completely fed up with it, hit n now.

Me: Tech++ (passed 3B, failed the 13 WPM) still waiting for ticket, 11 wks,
    2 days.

Arguments FOR code:
  1. Riffraff- A few hours spent listening to CB (if you can stand that long)
     are sufficient justification for this. Airwaves are limited, desire to
     use them is not. Alternatives to making an amature license difficult
     to get are making it very expensive or limiting the total number issued.
  2. Code is a good way of communicating- less power, less bandwidth, no
     accents. Besides, it's kinda fun! (and I needed a "2" :)
Arguments AGAINST code:
(first stolen from (name forgotten, post deleted) Stohl (spelling unsure)
    1. It's unfairly weighted. As my elmer pointed out to me (before
       my novtech test) if you KNOW subelements A-D, you have 15 of 19
       already. Just GUESS any 4 from E-I (4 out of 10 of a multiple-
       choice test- not TOO hard:) and you have it! But copy one
       character less than required or miss 4 of 10 questions- you're sunk.
    2. It's outdated. Given the choice, we TALK to each other. And it
       no longer represents a useful test of the practical, physical skills
       used by hams.
Suggestions: weight the cw portion like the rest of the test: right now you
             can flunk any complete subelement and still pass the test.
             Also, rather than just argue for eliminating the code (we
             found a witch, may we burn her?) suggest a *replacement for
             it such as "Build a [2m rig, 24 hour clock, dummy load] (choose
             one) from parts in this box"
any takers?
73 good buddy
dadida di didi da didididi
                2.

Date: Thu, 26 Aug 93 15:46:49 GMT
From: walter!porthos!dancer!whs70@uunet.uu.net
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <harp.11.0@bnr.ca>, <25bi9r$8od@chnews.intel.com>,
<harp.13.0@bnr.ca>on.
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!

In article <harp.13.0@bnr.ca> harp@bnr.ca (Alan Harp) writes:
>In article <25bi9r$8od@chnews.intel.com> jbromley@joshua.intel.com (James
Bromley~) writes:
>>From: jbromley@joshua.intel.com (James Bromley~)
>>There's something to be said for learning code at an early
>>age. One can do wonders with a young, undamaged, unschooled
>>brain.
>>
>>For the rest of us with careers to pursue, developing a
>>high-speed Morse code translation capability isn't worth the

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>>time it takes.  Fifty years ago, maybe.  But not now.  It is
>>a totally worthless skill in today's job market.
>
>                           ^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^
>Hey this is a HOBBY!  Remember!
>
>If you are in it for profit you won't make much of a living.
>We send and receive CW for fun.  If you don't think it is
>interesting and challenging stay away from it!
>* Alan Harp K4PB     *     Bell-Northern Research     *   CW FOREVER     *
>* mail: harp@bnr.ca  *   Research Triangle Park, NC   *                  *
>*************************************************************************
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I stay away from CW for that very reason, unfortunately there are several
small HF phone frequency segments that incentive licensing mandates
I must be an Extra class to use and thus must learn CW at 20wpm. That's
plain stupid. No other mode of transmission is used as an absolute
pass/fail criteria to get the higher licenses. One can get every answer
wrong on a general, advanced or extra class license that involves
packet data and still have a passing score. The CW test, because it is
a totally separate element is given (for this day and age) too much
emphasis in license advancement testing.

Even if the CW test was left the same, why couldn't the 10 cw questions
be added to the respective theory portion and then the final grade be
determined. For example: the extra theory test is 40 questions to which the
10 cw questions could be added for a total of 50 questions. To then pass
the extra class test, a total of 37 questions should be answered correctly.
In such a scoring arrangement, one could still get every CW question
wrong as well as 3 theory questions wrong and still pass the test. In that
way, CW is given no more special emphasis than any other mode of operation
(although having 10 cw questions is still probably more than any other
individual mode has on any of the current theory tests).

Just a proposal :-)

Standard Disclaimer- Any opinions, etc. are mine and NOT my employer's.

Bill Sohl (K2UNK) BELLCORE (Bell Communications Research, Inc.)
Morristown, NJ   email via UUCP   bcr!cc!whs70
201-829-2879 Weekdays   email via Internet   whs70@cc.bellcore.com

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Date: Thu, 26 Aug 1993 17:19:43 GMT
From: spool.mu.edu!torn!nott!bnrgate!nmerh207!corpgate!nrtpa038!bnr.ca!
harp@decwrl.dec.com
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu
```

References <1993Aug24.190226.141102@locus.com>, <harp.14.0@bnr.ca>,
<CCBJE5.53F@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU>
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!


>>I wonder what it would be like if these people were born and raised
>>communicating only in CW.  Would they complain if someone suggested
>>they learn to talk?
>
>Non sequitur.
 ^^^^^^^^^^^^  Latin I assume.  I'm Impressed.

Dahdididit dididah didahdidit didahdidit.



****************************************************************************
* Alan Harp K4PB     *     Bell-Northern Research      *    CW FOREVER      *
* mail: harp@bnr.ca  *   Research Triangle Park, NC    *                    *
****************************************************************************

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Date: 26 Aug 93 20:08:27 GMT
From: nntp.ucsb.edu!mustang.mst6.lanl.gov!nntp-server.caltech.edu!
news.claremont.edu!bridge2!zen.DEV.3Com.COM!joer@network.ucsd.edu
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <25gh1rINN8tg@bashful.isi.com>, <CCCMED.G3K@murdoch.acc.virginia.edu>,
<25hkd8$t66@agate.berkeley.edu>
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!

lee@soda.berkeley.edu (Lee Thompson-Herbert) writes:

>In article <CCCMED.G3K@murdoch.acc.virginia.edu>,
>[...]
>>confusion is that you think Morris Code is any more inseparably related
>[...]

>Morse code, guys.  Morris Code is a bunch of English dancers with bells
>tied to their ankles, passing semaphore with their scarves. ;)
>[English Morris Dancing, for those who don't get the ref]

>--
>>>>>____ >>>>>>>>>>>>>All Standard Disclaimers Apply>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>
> ___\  /       Lee M. Thompson-Herbert  lee@soda.berkeley.edu        >>>>>
> \  /\/                KD6WUR                                  >>>>

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>  \/Semper Bi        This is a job for CAPTIAN NAPALM!            >>>>
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A welcome burst of humor in this thread . . . when I looked at the
headers, I thought it was the ol' code - no-code debate again. I expect
when I'm old and gray, somewhere around 2027 or 2037, I'll pull up the
latest issue of QST on the pad and read some more about that particular
debate . . . :)!

73, Joe KC6TXU

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Date: Thu, 26 Aug 1993 17:47:47 GMT
From: spool.mu.edu!howland.reston.ans.net!torn!nott!bnrgate!corpgate!nrtpa038!
bnr.ca!harp@decwrl.dec.com
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <1993Aug24.190226.141102@locus.com>, <harp.14.0@bnr.ca>,
<dparkerCCBqGL.3zB@netcom.com>e
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!

>>
>
>I think the point really is that the 13-20 WPM as a REQUIREMENT for HF
>work is a silly and does not seem to fit in the "real" world. I have had
>my ticket since Feb. and am proud to say NO, I will not learn the code past
>5 WPM. But I still want HF access, I should not be shut out. But thats not
>to say that I feel it should be elimated, only as a requirment.

The Extra Class privileges are mostly CW. Perhaps the exclusive phone
privileges should be removed as a privilege. But leave the class of
license, and the requirements alone.

If you don't like CW don't take the test and get the license. Don't do
it because you just want to say you made it.

Promote your own aspect of amateur radio but please don't destroy mine.

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*****************************************************************************
* Alan Harp K4PB     *     Bell-Northern Research     *    CW FOREVER      *
* mail: harp@bnr.ca  *   Research Triangle Park, NC    *                    *
*****************************************************************************
```

Date: Thu, 26 Aug 1993 18:37:15 GMT
From: dog.ee.lbl.gov!agate!netsys!pagesat!indirect.com!nu7i@network.ucsd.edu
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <25apvc$ggm@zephyr.ens.tek.com>, <1993Aug24.031323.13221@kd4nc.uucp>,
<25df23$3mf@zephyr.ens.tek.com>
Subject : Re: Bootlegger At ARRL N.E. Convention

I would like to see MARS restricted to only licensed amateur radio
operators. What does everyone think? It seems that the CAP activity does
not necessarily mean that the individual has the needed radio operating
skills. Besides, it would help us gain more hams if they had to be
licensed to be MARS ops. 73

Date: 26 Aug 1993 13:55:57 -0700
From: haven.umd.edu!cs.umd.edu!mojo.eng.umd.edu!news.isi.com!news.isi.com!not-for-
mail@uunet.uu.net
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <CCAE3H.7s6@fc.hp.com>, <25gfr3INN8sv@bashful.isi.com>,
<CCCyFr.AKx@news.Hawaii.Edu>
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!

In article <CCCyFr.AKx@news.Hawaii.Edu> jherman@uhunix3.uhcc.Hawaii.Edu (Jeff
Herman) writes:
>In article <25gfr3INN8sv@bashful.isi.com> jerry@isi.com (Jerry Gardner x323)
writes:

>>Unfortuately, most *adult* extra class license holders probably passed the
                                        ^^^^^^^^
                                        ^^^^^^^^

>Jerry, this is a rather cruel insult to *adult* extras; can you provide
>firm evidence to back up your claim? You remind me of someone else on
>here who tries to pass his opinions as fact ("You make it, we break it...")

I think the word "probably" in the above sentence indicates that I'm
not trying to pass off my opinion as fact. I don't have any evidence
at all... Perhaps the number of copies of the rote memorization-style
test guides, like the old Bash "Final Exam" books, would serve as a
form of evidence. Anyone have this information?

--
Jerry Gardner (jerry@isi.com) | "Violence is the last refuge of
Integrated Systems, Inc. | the incompetent" - Isaac Asimov

Date: 26 Aug 1993 13:47:14 -0700
From: haven.umd.edu!cs.umd.edu!mojo.eng.umd.edu!news.isi.com!news.isi.com!not-for-
mail@uunet.uu.net
To: ham-policy@ucsd.edu

References <CCBJE5.53F@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU>, <25gh1rINN8tg@bashful.isi.com>,
<CCCMED.G3K@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU>umd.
Subject : Re: Just Go Learn the code!

In article <CCCMED.G3K@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU> jeg7e@livia.acs.Virginia.EDU (Jon
Gefaell) writes:
!>In article <25gh1rINN8tg@bashful.isi.com>,
!>Jerry Gardner x323 <jerry@isi.com> wrote:
!>>In article <CCBJE5.53F@murdoch.acc.Virginia.EDU> jeg7e@livia.acs.Virginia.EDU
(Jon Gefaell) writes:
!>>>
!>>>It is part of *YOUR* hobby. Some parts of Amateur Radio may be interesting
!>>>to one or the other of us, Morris Code is NOT interesting to me, though
!>>>UNIX Kernal Hacking is. Likewise, you obviously enjoy Morris Code, and
!>>>may not be up to Kernel Hacking. Get it?
!>>
!>>Talk about non sequitur's...
!>>
!>>UNIX Kernal Hacking is NOT interesting to me, though Bass fishing is.
!>>Likewise, you obviously enjoy UNIX Kernal Hacking, and may not be up
!>>to Bass fishing. Get it?
!>
!>EXACTLY!!!
!>
!>I think it's you who are slightly confused... And the source of your
!>confusion is that you think Morris Code is any more inseparably related

!>to the Amateur Radio Hobby than UNIX KernEl hacking.

When did I ever say that Morse Code is inseparably linked to amateur radio?
Please stop putting words into my mouth. (BTW, I'm aware of the correct
spelling of "kernel", but since you choose to bastardize Morse into "Morris",
I figured I'd do the same with kernal... I KNEW it'd get a rise out of you!)

!>I relate UNIX KernEl hacking to Amateur radio because besides public
!>service communications my other area of interest is High Speed TCP/IP
!>networking (High Speed is relative, of course) and of course, I use
!>UNIX for this.
!>
!>*YOU* may relate Morris Code to Amateur Radio because you enjoy the
!>challenge of turning your grey matter into a wetware modem.

Who made this claim? Not I. It seems anyone who disagrees even slightly
with all you Politically Correct "Morris" bashers is a code fanatic. This
is not true. Besides, there are many more hams using code out there than
using UNIX for high speed TCP/IP, so maybe code IS more relevant...

!>Thus, *MY* Hobby as it relates to Amateur Radio is somewhat different
!>than *YOUR* Hobby as it relates to Amateur Radio.

How can you make this claim when you don't know what my perspective of
amateur radio really is? Are you psychic?

!>BTW, a couple buddies of mine like to use Amateur Radio to coordinate
!>their Bass Fishing endeavors. They got their licenses just for that
!>porpoise, after seeing how _versatile_ this *HOBBY* can be. They are
!>also not interested in Morris Code.

I'm not interested in Morris Code either, whatever it may be...

!>>Gee, I thought this *WAS* my hobby. After all, this newsgroup is
!>>rec.*radio.amateur*.policy, not comp.unix.internals or
!>>rec.outdoors.fishing. Besides, how does UNIX Kernal Hacking relate to
!>>ham radio?
!>
!>I Hope I've been clear and unambiguous in my answer to this last question.
!>As the OF's before us were fond of pointing out, Amateur Radio is a Hobby
!>that can be many things to many people.

All you've done is to make a bunch of completely invalid assumptions
about others' views of the hobby based on your own irrational
[fear|hatrid|dislike] of code.

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--
Jerry Gardner (jerry@isi.com)     |    "Violence is the last refuge of
Integrated Systems, Inc.          |    the incompetent" - Isaac Asimov


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End of Ham-Policy Digest V93 #308
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